(b) whether it is a fact that Government are indiscriminately curtailing the kerosene allotment to the State;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government consider to increase the allotment of kerosene due to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBASH MAHARIA): (a) Allocation of 236758 MTs of Kerosene has been made to the Government of Kerala for 2002-2003.

(b) and (c) In line with the policy of reducing Kerosene allocation against LPG connections released in various States/UTs. including Kerala, kerosene allocation to Kerala has also been reduced.

(d) No, Sir.

Amendments in Consumer Protection Act

2372. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been actively considering further amendments in the Consumer Protection Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the scope of consumer protection services has been further expanded; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 (68 of 1986) has recently been amended vide the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Act, 2002 (62 of 2002) to widen the scope of the Act so as to make it more effective and purposeful.

Creation of Sugar Board

2373. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to create a Sugar Board to sort out issues relating to sugar;

(b) if so, whether the Prime Minister had also announced that Government would take steps to reinstate the periodic release mechanism of freesale sugar which was dismantled following an interim order of the Allahabad High Court;

(c) if so, to what extent the Sugar Board would help in sorting out the issues relating to sugar; and

(d) by when it is likely to be formed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (d) There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to create a Sugar Board. However, the Government have decided to implement the regulated release mechanism effectively.

Economic cost of FCI on wheat and rice

2374. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad had recently submitted its report on ways and means to reduce economic cost of FCI on wheat and rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBASH MAHARIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main findings and recommendations made in the Study Report of the Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad are given in the statement (*See* below).

(c) The recommendations made in the report are under examination.